



Town of Arlington
Department of Health and Human Services
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**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
BOH Conference Room
Arlington Senior Center
5:30pm**

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, Mr. Kenneth Kohlberg

Staff in Attendance: Christine Bongiorno, H&HS Director; Natasha Waden, Director of Public Health; Kylee Sullivan, Health Compliance Officer

Absent: Dr. Kevin Fallon

Others in Attendance: None

Recording Secretary: Laura Munsey, Health & Human Services Administrative Assistant

Meeting called to order by Dr. Marie Walsh Condon at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Kenneth Kohlberg, which was seconded by Dr. Marie Walsh Condon to accept the June 21, 2017 meeting minutes as submitted.

Vote: 2 – 0 (Unanimously) in favor of the motion

Hearing: Amendments to Regulations Restricting the Sale of Tobacco and Nicotine Delivery Products

Director Waden provided the Board with draft recommendations to amend the regulations restricting the sale of tobacco and nicotine delivery products. She informed the Board that she and Inspector Sullivan have incorporated some changes, and will work with Mr. D.J. Wilson to provide additional guidance regarding the appropriate methodology to determine the maximum number of tobacco and nicotine delivery product permits to be allowed in Arlington. A final version of recommendations will be presented at the November 1st or December 6th meeting and recommended that the hearing be postponed until all corrections have been incorporated.

Discussion: Adoption of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 2013 Food Code

Director Waden informed that Board that Ms. Maureen Lee was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but on Maureen's behalf, she updated the Board on the progress to adopt the Food and Drug Administration 2013 Food Code. She stated the biggest changes relate to:

- The Inspection Form;
- Policies and procedures regarding critical and non-critical violations in which immediate corrections will be required by establishment management, and critical violations will need to be corrected while the Inspector is on-site;
- Priority and non-priority foundations; and
- Clear procedures of variance requests will be outlined.

To adopt the 2013 food code a public hearing will need to be scheduled.

Director Waden stated the Department would like the Board to vote to adopt the 2013 Food Code at the November 1st meeting. Implementation would begin in January 2019. This would give adequate time to purchase electronic software, and educate/train the establishments, staff, and community at large.

Mr. Kohlberg inquired when a newer version of the 2013 food code will be released, and Director Waden stated typically every four years. Based on that time line, Mr. Kohlberg inquired if it may be worthwhile to wait for the newest version to be released. Director Waden she would discuss the matter with Ms. Maureen Lee.

Discussion: SNAP gap

Director Bongiorno, addressed the Board and shared that SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is the federally funded program that provides low income residents with financial assistance to purchase food. She stated that the Health and Human Services Department has conducted a needs assessment to evaluate the social determinants of health within Arlington. As part of this initiative, and grant received, an Intern, Mr. Domenic Gentile, was hired and conducted research over the summer which indicated a large number of Arlington residents have housing insecurity, food insecurity, and senior health related issues. Related to food insecurity, the Greater Boston Food Bank estimates that there are approximately 3,500 food insecure individuals in Arlington. The Arlington Food Pantry served 945 people in the year from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. It was reported that only 40% of Food Pantry clients have SNAP benefits and 60% do not participate in the SNAP program. Additionally, in Arlington, there are 4,000 individuals on MassHealth, but only 1,500 receive SNAP benefits.

As a result, the Health & Human Services Department has partnered with over two dozen community businesses, and organizations, and will kick off the **Closing the SNAP Gap campaign** on Tuesday, September 26th at 8:30 am in the Lyons Hearing Room at Town Hall. Partners will reach out to the residents in Arlington, and provide information to those who would qualify and benefit from the SNAP Program. Social Workers within the H&HS Department will work with residents to register them for the SNAP program to help alleviate the food insecurity of residents in need. Food Link has worked with the Farmers Market in Arlington and Vendors will now allow SNAP benefits to be used for Fruit and Vegetable purchases.

Coalition Updates

No updates to report.

Environmental Updates:

Director Waden informed the Board that next month, Inspector Sullivan will be attending a rodent seminar in New York City, to gather information to help address the increasing number of rodent complaints within Arlington. Mr. Kohlberg asked Inspector Sullivan to inquire if New York City found any correlation between recycling efforts and rodent activity. Inspector Sullivan stated she would report back to the Board at the November 1st meeting.

Ms. Waden informed the Board that over the summer, Mystic Lakes had a toxic algae bloom, and the Medford Boat Club was closed to swimming for 2 weeks.

Mosquitos have tested positive in Arlington for West Nile Virus.

Ms. Amira Nwokeji-Iwuala is a Northeastern University Student who will be working as an Intern at the Health Department through December of 2017.

Director Waden informed that Board that Mr. Padraig Martin has been hired as the new Lead Health Compliance Officer. She reported Mr. Martin will be coming from Watertown, and not only has many years experience in the municipal sector, but also worked in the private sector at a noise engineering firm, and will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Department. Mr. Martin will begin his position on September 25th.

The Board congratulated Ms. Waden for being hired as the new Director of Public Health.

Restaurant Updates

Inspector Sullivan reported plan reviews have been received for:

- Dunkin Donuts (Broadway) – The establishment is changing ownership. The plan review application is being assessed and a conditional approval letter will be sent to the new owner.
- Classic Café - The establishment is changing ownership. The plan review application has been approved and a pre-operational inspection will be conducted next week.
- Jimmy's Steer House – The establishment is changing ownership. The plan review application has been approved, new equipment is being finalized, and a final inspection will be conducted.
- Momadou's Bakery – A meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss the plan review application.
- The Green Light (A smoothie establishment) – The establishment is completing a plan review application to submit to the Office.

- The Granola Bowl (At the Art Lounge) – The plan review application has been approved and a pre-operational inspection needs to be scheduled.

Town Day is scheduled for September 16th, and Health Department Inspectors will be on site to inspect food stations, and provide temporary food permits for registered food vendors .

Public Health Nurse Updates

Standing orders for flu vaccination clinics were provided to Dr. Marie Walsh Condon for signature.

The Arlington Health Department is once again offering seasonal flu vaccinations. Because seniors are at a greater risk for severe complications from the flu, the Arlington Health Department has purchased both the high dose and regular flu vaccines for Arlington seniors ages 65 and older. Clinics will be held at each of the senior housing buildings, and additional clinics at the Senior Center. The State Vaccination Program will provide state-supplied vaccine for children ages 6 months to 18 years of age, and the Health Department will conduct clinics at each of the Arlington Public Schools, and hold other clinics for children as appropriate. New this year, electronic forms will be used for school-based clinics.

Flu clinics will begin October 4th and will wrap up by the end of November.

Public Comment

None

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm